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Rookie Robot Roves  
into Semifinals

## Letter from the Dean



Andrae Marak  
Dean, College of Arts  
and Sciences and  
Graduate Studies

Welcome to the third annual, and newly renamed, College of Arts and Sciences newsmagazine. Now under the editorial leadership of Dr. Christopher White (English), *ArtSci* is the collaborative work of dedicated Governors State University (GSU) students Christopher Robison (English BA), Deirdre Roberts (English BA), Maeghan Rybka (English BA), and Cheri Boudreau (English MA). GSU is just emerging from the effects of a two-year budget standoff here in Illinois, and *ArtSci* demonstrates that in spite of budgetary headwinds, our faculty and

staff remain as dedicated as ever to providing students with rigorous programs that integrate hands-on experiential learning as a central component for students to acquire new knowledge and skills, both of which are transferable to a wide range of work and life settings. This year's newsmagazine includes stories about the GSU faculty-led J.E.D.I team, which competed successfully in a local Robotics competition, the creation of GSU's first-ever Forensics team, and new programs in Studio Art and Creative Writing, among other things. As *ArtSci* vividly demonstrates, GSU remains a public square and a place where "residents of our surrounding communities have access to a first-class public education."

I have said on many occasions, and will say so again, GSU remains a hidden gem of a university, tucked away in the South Suburbs of Chicagoland. In spite of being a hidden gem, one that should not be so hidden, we have a tremendous impact on the local and regional communities that surround us. Ask around and you will perhaps be surprised by just how many people in your community have their undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree(s) from GSU. In addition, we engage in a wide range of community outreach and would love to do even more. If you are interested in expanding our impact, please consider giving back. You can do so by donating money to our foundation to support the College of Arts and Sciences, our annual STEAM camp, the Center for Performing Arts, and/or the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. We are also always looking for volunteers, from agreeing to mentor our undergraduate and graduate students to serving as an usher for our Arts in Education program for local school children. As always, I am here to serve you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [amarak@govst.edu](mailto:amarak@govst.edu).

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*ArtSci* is a student-written publication highlighting the major events and achievements of the students, alumni, and faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences at Governors State University.

**Cheri Boudreau**

*Writer/Editor*

I am an English Graduate student and a part time journalist and writing tutor. A proud “cat-lady” and comic book enthusiast, I live with my two rescue cats and my unorganized library of DC Comics.

**Deirdre Roberts**

*Writer/Editor*

I am an English Secondary Education major with a passion for storytelling. I spend my free time writing short stories and coding games. My dog says I’m great.

**Christopher Robison**

*Writer/Editor*

I am an English major who cherishes the power of words and stories to shape and enrich the mind. I live with my wife Elizabeth, and pass the time roaming either real or imaginary forests.

**Maeghan Rybka**

*Writer/Editor*

I am an English Major and travel buff always planning my next trip. When not exploring new cultures, I enjoy spending time with my lovely better half and our adorable pooch, Misu.

**Dr. Christopher White (English)**

*Faculty Advisor for ArtSci*

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We are always interested in new CAS-related story ideas. If you have one you would like to share, please contact Christopher White at [cwhite@govst.edu](mailto:cwhite@govst.edu).

# First Stop Robotics, Second Stop... Mars

By Deirdre Roberts

## J.E.D.I. Inspire Innovation, Education at GSU

A lone rover deploys. It lands, surveys its surroundings, and begins its trawl to collect minerals across a barren landscape. Two-and-a-half minutes later a timer buzzes, and the judges tally the score—it's not Mars, but the FIRST Tech Challenge in Flossmoor, Illinois. The rover is a custom-built robot, engineered and programmed by the Governors State J.E.D.I. team (Java, Engineer, Droid, Interface), a group of 7th to 12th grade engineers from the South Suburbs aspiring to reach the stars.

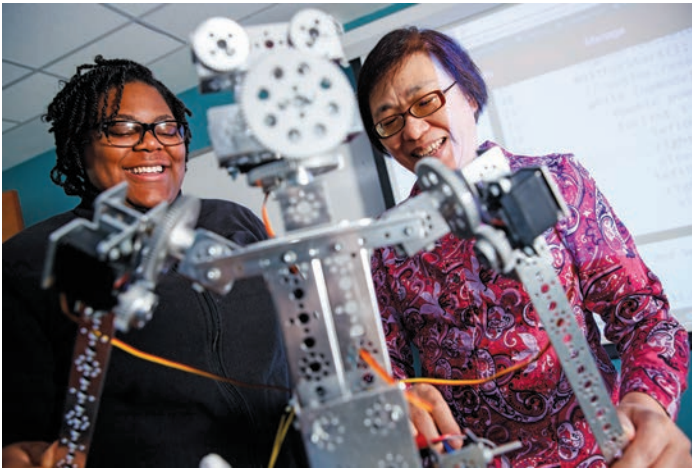
"Think about autonomous driving," explained Dr. Clare Tang, who spearheaded the program at Governors State. "No human, no one's driving the car, the car goes itself and recognizes the red light." That's the challenge J.E.D.I. students faced at competition. For thirty seconds, the robot must be intelligent enough to lower itself from a landing device, identify a single gold mineral from a field of silver minerals, collect the gold, store the gold, and travel to the center of a crater—all on its own. A driver-controlled period follows, in which students remotely pilot the robot to collect, sort, and store minerals, scoring points as they go. A rigorous competition, but one in which the rookie J.E.D.I. team exceeded expectations.

The J.E.D.I., in fact, went all the way to the semifinals. "This is a big thing for a rookie team," said Professor Aslam "Sam" Shahid, the team's head coach. It's a rare sight to find a rookie in the semifinals, but Professor Shahid dreams big for his students. As far as the students themselves, they dream even bigger. There's 17-year-old Cameron Richardson, a student aiming for a career in engineering and computer science. And then there's 13-year-old Janelle Le Roy, the team's technical writer with goals to become either "a pediatrician or a poetry professor," who professed a love for prose and watching surgeries online.

*"Next year I told my students we're going all the way... we're not going to show any mercy."*



Team Captain Cameron Richardson shows off cheesecake celebrating the J.E.D.I.'s performance at semi-finals.



One of GSU's Computer Science students examines a robot's mechanical inner components alongside her professor, Dr. Tang.

As the FIRST Tech Challenge moves from Mars to another yet-to-be-disclosed theme for its next competition, faculty and students prepare for a return of the J.E.D.I. "Next year," said Professor Shahid, "I told my students we're going all the way... we're not going to show any mercy."

Dr. Tang and Professor Shahid lead the J.E.D.I. in learning cutting-edge technology, and pass that knowledge down to students attending GSU. "After we learn, we create new courses," said Dr. Tang. Machine learning, artificial intelligence, image recognition, java-programmed robotics: in the fast-paced world of technology, faculty ride an endless cycle of learning, and teaching, and learning again. Many times there are problems with no easy answers, but the faculty behind the J.E.D.I. embrace hard questions as part of the beauty of their field. "This is the big difference about computer science," explained Dr. Tang, speaking passionately about the Computer Science faculty's love for learning, "because we don't have a solution.

A Stormtrooper cutout and a working model of Star Wars' BB-8 accompany Head Coach Professor Shahid to every competition.



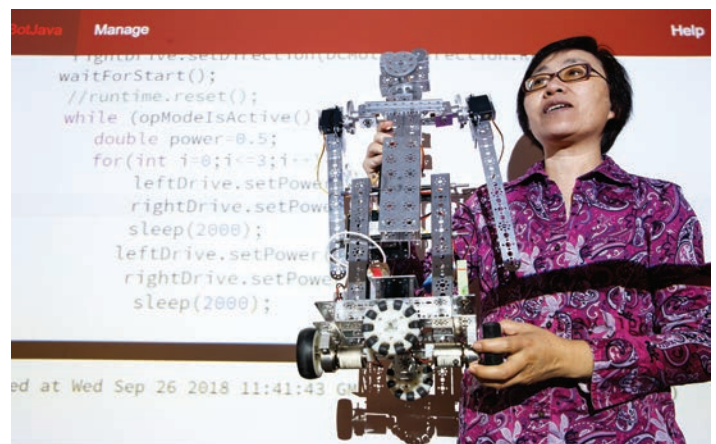
We learn together with them... We're not just teaching the students content. We teach the students how to learn."

Some of those hard questions include machine learning and visual recognition, topics that have flowed directly from the J.E.D.I. team into the GSU classroom. Machine learning involves feeding a computer data in order to help it learn how to perform a specific task on its own—in other words, teaching machines to learn. Imagine feeding a million images of hamsters and gerbils to a computer, then training the computer to figure out how to tell the difference. The human does not tell the computer how; humans must teach the computer to teach itself. Sound easy? Now imagine feeding a computer a million videos of heart surgery, then tasking the computer with learning how to perform a coronary bypass.

*"We're not just teaching the students content. We teach the students how to learn."*

It may sound straightforward, but it's one of the most complex and sophisticated concepts computer science is attempting to solve, what some consider the next great leap in computing.

The J.E.D.I. team meets Monday nights yearlong and welcomes any 7th-12th grade students in the GSU area regardless of skill level, with the promise to teach students skills they need to know. They also welcome mentors from the GSU student body. Interest in engineering is not required—the team needs writers, photographers, videographers, and community outreach support, too. Those interested, including potential GSU mentors, should contact Professor Shahid at [ashahid@govst.edu](mailto:ashahid@govst.edu). ■



Dr. Tang demonstrates how programming translates to robotic movement in her GSU Java Programming class.

# Forensic Debate Team Launches Fall 2019

By Maeghan Rybka

## GSU Students: Get Creative with Your Speech

GSU has an exciting new team opportunity coming in Fall 2019. No, we're not talking about CSI here. Forensic Debate combines speeches, performance, debate, and creativity in a multi-event competition. Here, there's something for everyone: think Track and Field but without the running, jumping, and throwing. For those of you already participating in the open mic or other spoken word events on campus, this team is for you. Forensics offers many outlets for creativity. Most of the competitions are completed individually, and students can compete in more than one event throughout the tournaments and competitions. Team members can compete in a range of specialties as diverse as the students themselves, from Dramatic Interpretation to Persuasive Speaking, from After-Dinner Speeches to Rhetorical Criticism, from Poetry to Informative Speeches.

Most competitions are completed individually, with the exception of the Duo Interpretation, where pairs of students perform multi-character pieces using different voices to differentiate between the characters. Another competition offered is Lincoln-Douglas Debate (named after the famous 1858 senatorial debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas), in which a topic is chosen before the competition, and participants prepare their stance, pro or con, using supporting evidence researched in advance. The team will meet with regular practices just as a sports team would to prepare for upcoming tournaments.

Forensics will be open to all undergraduates, connecting students of all majors from throughout the university. Team members will acquire skills in public speaking, research methods, time management, and professionalism, all of which will be valuable in the job market.



Participation in this team qualifies students for AIM HIGH and other scholarships offered through GSU. So next year, find yourself a community within the university. Consider joining the Forensic Debate Team! ■

# Saving the World with AI Gore, 24 Hours at a Time

By Deirdre Roberts



## GSU Students Get Hands-on Experience in Broadcasting

Every December, GSU Media Studies sends select undergrads to rub shoulders with the likes of Bill Nye, Jaden Smith, and Jonathan Scott behind the scenes of AI Gore's 24 Hours of Reality, a televised initiative to eliminate climate change. It's an internship, a resume-builder, and a life-changing experience rolled into one, and GSU alumni Steven and Danielle Addair made it happen. The pair are partners at ShoulderHill Entertainment, which produces the show. "Steven and Danielle were looking to give back to GSU by developing an ongoing internship partnership with our program," explained Dr. Deborah James, Associate Professor of Media Studies and the program's coordinator. Thanks to the combined efforts of Shoulderhill Entertainment and GSU faculty, students have seized the opportunity to intern as production assistants in a world-saving enterprise for three years running.



Students of GSU's Media Studies program operate a production switcher to cut between multiple camera feeds.

This year, students traveled to Los Angeles Historic State Park, just outside Hollywood, to join a 400+ person television crew to film four days of production and two days of live broadcasting. Students manned booths, set up equipment, assisted the director's crew, worked in

a remote broadcast truck, worked with a live drone video crew, and supported celebrity talent. Shifts began at 6 a.m. and often lasted 10 hours or longer, including a 24-hour live shift—not required, but for which GSU students have always volunteered. On top of that, the location itself brought challenges that could daunt even seasoned broadcast professionals.

Filming in a park meant diverse environments, inclement weather,

and working against the unpredictable. "Think people with dogs, frisbees, strollers, et cetera, walking through the set," said Dr. James. After a week of chaos, labor, and dedication, however, students walked away with invaluable experience. "Interns have gone on to land jobs in the industry," Dr. James concluded. "Working on a live set is of immeasurable value to students looking to study media with the goal to enter the industry." ■

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*"Working on a live set is of immeasurable value to students looking to study media with the goal to enter the industry."*

# Mastering the Fine Arts at GSU

By Cheri Boudreau

## CAS Introduces New MFA Program in Studio Art

In the fall of 2018, GSU premiered the Masters of Fine Art in Studio Art. Five years in the making, the new program replaces the MA in Art. Studio Art requires the student to take courses in different art media, including painting, printmaking, photography, digital imaging, sculpture, graphic design, and ceramics. Exploring different media allows students to develop individual techniques that will shape their artistic voice and prepare for art careers.

Replacing the MA program with the MFA was a natural development in Studio Art studies. “The MFA is a more desirable degree with more career opportunities,” said Professor Leanne Cambric, the coordinator for the graduate program. The MFA is also a more rigorous program. It is the terminal degree in the field, and so acceptance into the program is more competitive and requires graduates to complete more credit hours than the former MA degree. But the MFA has a higher caliber of real world application which offers more versatile employment opportunities in Higher Education.

The curriculum allows graduate students to build on their primary medium by adding additional tools to their artistic wheelhouse. “Students choose a primary medium but they must take studio courses in at least one other medium as well,” notes Professor Cambric. While many students are adept in one medium, the MFA forces students to look beyond skills in which they already excel. “By challenging them to be comfortable communicating their ideas within other materials it encourages risk taking, builds conceptual confidence, and improves their ability to be resilient and adaptable.”



Heather Cox, MFA Student



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*“By challenging them to be comfortable communicating their ideas within other materials it encourages risk taking, builds conceptual confidence, and improves their ability to be resilient and adaptable.”*

— Professor Leanne Cambric





MFA Students Debbie Burk (top) and Kyrin Hobson (bottom)

Another addition to the program is the focus on building multimedia skills. “All contemporary artists must learn how to share their artwork within a digital format,” Professor Cambric explained. The graduate seminar teaches students professional practices such as how to address common issues that arise when sharing their art through digital forums, a must-have skill in today’s digital world.

The MFA in Studio Art is an excellent way for artists to continue their education. By combining multidisciplinary studio research with a professional-practices seminar, graduates will possess the fluidity and real-world skills to have successful art careers in a variety of industries. ■

# CPA Teams Up with Federal Work Study Program

By Maeghan Rybka

## Students Gain Valuable Skills Doing Something They Love

GSU is dedicated to blending education with hands-on experience to prepare students for life after graduation. Through a unique opportunity, 4-7 Federal Work Study students each year gain knowledge of the ins and outs of theater production while working in the Center for Performing Arts (CPA). Student workers develop much sought-after skills in the areas of customer service, social media campaigns, sales, and non-profit fundraising. As CPA Director Svetlana Rogachevskaya put it, “The Center for the Performing Arts uses the teaching hospital method: we rely on the student workers to supplement and energize the full-time employees.”

The students involved in the program this year speak highly of their experiences. Demario Tribett, a Theatre and Performing Arts major, gushed about how the CPA was able to work around his school schedule in order for him to take part in the Work Study Program. Demario expressed his excitement to apply knowledge gained by working in the CPA to his future career plans.

“I love being able to encounter so many wonderful people,” he said, “and view some of Chicago’s most amazing actors, singers, Broadway shows, and more.” Jessica White, another Work Study Program student and senior in the College of Education, works in the box office as well as in the CPA’s Arts in Education initiative. Jessica sends information to educators in the area about the upcoming children’s shows. When asked about her favorite aspect of the job, Jessica shared, “It is really interesting to see the behind-the-scenes of how the shows are created and who they have to contact.”

The CPA actively participates in the Fall and Spring job fairs. Interested students can apply for opportunities within the CPA (and other areas of the University) by visiting the Student Employment Resources website at Jobs for Jaguars on the GSU website. For specifics on how to apply for job openings, visit the Financial Aid Office or Career Services. ■



*“I love being able to encounter so many wonderful people and view some of Chicago’s most amazing actors, singers, Broadway shows, and more.”*

# The Art of the Word

By Christopher Robison

## Kindle Your Imagination and Vision with a Minor in Creative Writing

The College of Arts and Sciences is excited to announce a new interdisciplinary minor in creative writing. Open to students of all majors across the university, the program offers students an opportunity to develop their personal creativity and self-expression through writing poetry, creative prose, screenplays, web content, and promotional copy.

“Students told us year after year that they wished they could take creative writing classes,” said Professor Laura White, who teaches the Intro to Creative Writing and Writing Poetry courses in the minor. “When we stepped back and thought about what a powerhouse of art GSU is, and how many of our colleagues were teaching forms of creative writing in their own disciplines, we realized we could offer students an innovative writing minor” by combining those courses together in a single, focused program.

Unique to this minor is its interdisciplinary range of studies, including English, Independent Film and Digital Imaging, Media Studies, and Theatre and Performance Studies. While creative writing is a subject typically confined to English departments, the new minor recognizes the variety of settings in which people write creatively. “It means the world to me that GSU is offering a creative writing minor,” said Alexis Smith, a student pursuing the minor, “because it doesn’t just bring together the writers of our campus, but it incorporates media studies and performing arts as well. This type of collaboration [between departments] is essential for developing a creative mind.”



Alexis Smith, creative writing student

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*“Writers are the caretakers and custodians of language.”*

Personal enrichment isn’t the only benefit students can look for in this minor. Dr. Christopher White, an English faculty member who co-designed the program, notes that “creative writing skills are valuable in a wide variety of careers ranging from the sciences and technology, to education, to business, to health care.” Specifically, the discipline of creative writing enhances a student’s communication and critical thinking skills, both of which are highly valuable in the workplace.

Pointing beyond the discipline’s professional relevance, both Professors White argue that the world is simply a better place when it has people who can write creatively. “Writers are the caretakers and custodians of language,” asserts Professor Laura White. “They honor its power, they preserve its traditions, they change it and innovate it, and they help us to more fully understand our human experiences.” ■

The creative writing minor comprises 18 total credit hours, including a required introductory course and 15 hours of elective courses covering different genres of creative writing across a range of disciplines.



# GSU Professor Makes Directorial Debut

By Christopher Robison

## Beauty in the Ordinary: Sanghoon Lee's Banana Season

"I'm always interested in the people who don't look great, but live sincere lives," says Sanghoon Lee, a GSU professor of film who made his feature-length directorial debut early last year with *Banana Season*, a story about the friendship between two ordinary men at a decisive period in their lives.

As a boy in South Korea, Lee took an early interest in films: his family often watched them together, and his older sister was a film school graduate who worked with a prolific South Korean director. "My sister was my idol at that time," Lee recalled, and by the time he graduated high school, his sister's many stories from film sets had inspired him to follow in her footsteps.

Lee moved to the U.S. to attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and stayed in America to get more experience in the country's vibrant filmmaking community. After several years working as a cinematographer and producer, Lee decided he wanted to tell his own story. "If you see most [movie characters], they are either superheroes—or even if they are not superheroes, they're beautiful, great people," observed Lee. "It is not easy to see the struggle of ordinary people, so I'm always interested in people who are on the outskirts of the spotlight, of society, but have beautiful lives."

Lee's debut film *Banana Season* highlights such lives as it tells the story of Sun, a cage fighter who loves the excitement of fighting but always loses because he would rather be beaten than harm others, and Peter, an artist who has been hired to paint the local water tower and dreams of flying like a bird. The film follows the two friends as they reconnect and pursue their dreams in this late-coming-of-age tale.

Lee's recent directorial experience is not only a personal milestone, but has expanded the insight he can offer his film students. "The things that I teach and share with the students are now much more realistic and vivid, because it's from my experience," explained Lee. "It's not from a directing book.

*"It is not easy to see the struggle of ordinary people, so I'm always interested in people who are on the outskirts of the spotlight, of society, but have beautiful lives."*



Sanghoon Lee interacting with cast members.

It's not from some great director. I experienced that. So it is much more personal. For a student, it is like, 'Wow, that's what really happened.' It's not like, 'Okay, that's a theory.'"

To aspiring directors, Lee advises, "If it doesn't really make your heart beat fast, then you shouldn't do it," but encourages those dedicated to the art to keep honing their craft in spite of self-doubt, noting that "insecurity and second-guessing are part of the job description of any artist"—a part that can be overcome by persistent hard work. ■

# CAS Advisor Board Spotlight: Gia Orr

By Christopher Robison

## An Advocate from the Classroom to the Legislature

The College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board was pleased to welcome Gia Orr to membership in early 2018. Orr is a proud alumna of Tennessee State University, where she earned a B.S. in Political Science/Criminal Justice. She continued her education in Chicagoland at National Louis University, where she obtained an M.S. in Human Services Administration, and later an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership with Principal Certification.

At Tennessee State, Orr became involved in student activism, beginning a lifelong commitment to standing up for others. “My career choices have been and still are driven by a passion for advocacy,” she explained. “Every step I’ve made on my life path has been taken with the assistance of others advocating for me. As I neared graduation from TSU, it became more and more evident that what stoked my fires each day was being tasked with having an impact on people who were often overlooked and underrepresented, as well as society as a whole.”

After graduation, Orr worked in education for over sixteen years, where she filled positions from classroom teacher to principal. As she took on administrative responsibilities, Orr found herself asking big-picture questions about the school system: “What legislation drives this? What policy was put in place that led to this particular reaction?” Her interest in rulemaking, the wheels of government, and legislation led her to the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, where she was recruited to serve the state in various positions of legislation, policy-making, results, and advocacy. She also serves as a commissioner on the Cook County Commission on Human Rights.



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*“Just like life unfolds in front of us, so does your professional journey.”*

Orr was introduced to GSU by GSU alumnus and member of the Illinois House of Representatives Leader William Davis. After establishing a connection with the university, she was invited by Dean Andrae Marak to sit on the CAS Advisory Board. Orr accepted, seeing her membership as a chance to offer internships to GSU students interested in her field of work—a field whose opportunities are as broad as students want them to be: “I always tell the interns, ‘We will build your internship based on what your interests are and what you would like to see.’” She has had three GSU interns since coming to the State of Illinois.

To the GSU student body, Orr says, “Life as we know it is not simple. Finding your way professionally—especially in the College of Arts and Sciences—you don’t have to have it all figured out at one time. Just like life unfolds in front of us, so does your professional journey.” ■



# Spotlight on CAS Student Accomplishments for 2018-19

- **Abigail Armstrong** (Biology BS) will be studying biomass production and nitrogen recovery through an internship at the Argonne National Laboratories Science Undergraduate Laboratory.
- **Hillary Chadaré** (Computer Science BS) will be completing an internship with Federal Signal Corp.
- **Terin D'Amico** was accepted, and is now enrolled, in the PhD program in Organic Chemistry at the University of Notre Dame.
- **Nathaniel Dahlberg** was accepted into the MS in Biological Science program at the University of Southern Mississippi
- **Thomas Fagan** (Computer Science BS) will be completing an internship with Midwest Operating Engineers.
- **Andrea Fuentes** won 1st place for Environmental Science Poster at the Illinois Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Symposium, for her paper on "Effects of pH, Dissolved Oxygen, and Temperature of Pond Water on the Richness of Odonates at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore" (Mentor: Dr. Erin Grey, Biology).
- **Neftali Ibarra** (Biology BS): poster presentation on "The Interactive Effects of Insecticide, Herbicide, and Fungicide in Aquatic Species" at the Illinois Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Symposium (Mentor: Dr. Erin Grey, Biology).
- **Steven A. Kolb** (MS Environment Biology), together with Dr. Edward O'Loughlin (Argonne National Lab) and Dr. Timothy Gsell (GSU), published "Isolation and Characterization of Phthalate-Degrading Bacteria from the Asian Carp Microbiomes and Riverine Sediments. Microbe Meeting" in the Proceedings of the American Society for Microbiology 117th General Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- **Vahora Mahmmdvasim** (Computer Science BS) will be completing an internship with K&A Associates Inc.
- **Andres R. Martinez II** (Biology BS) was accepted into the Doctor of Dental Medicine Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- **Taylor Mezo** (Art BFA) received two highly competitive scholarships to the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.
- **Reni Truhtcheva Owikoti** (Environmental Biology MS) will be investigating bioenergy and bioproducts through an internship at the Department of Energy's Science Undergraduate Laboratory.
- **René Parks** (English MA) will be presenting a paper, "Order in the Kingdom: Duplicity and Division in Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl," at the 2019 Midwest Modern Language Association Conference in Chicago.

## 2019 GSU Research Day Presentations:

- **Adlin Pazmino** was accepted into the MS program in Physician Assistant Practice at Rosalind Franklin University.
- **Vincent Schmitz** (Analytical Chemistry MS) was accepted into the PhD program in Bioanalytical Chemistry at the University of Notre Dame.
- **Brandon Simmons** (Computer Science BS) will be completing an internship with American Smiles.
- **Malcolm Washington** (Computer Science MS) accepted a job offering with the National Security Agency.
- **Abigail E. Armstrong:** “Nitrate removal and patterns of pH-induced flocculation in highlipid producing algae *Ochromonas Danica*” (Mentor: Dr. Timothy Gsell).
- **Andrea Fuentes:** “Effects of pH, Dissolved O<sub>2</sub> and Temperature of Pond Water on the Richness of Odonates at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore” (Mentor: Dr. Erin Grey).
- **Scott Carlock** (Environmental Biology MS): “Soil Aggregate Stability and Size Distribution under Different Land Uses in Nachusa Grasslands, Northern Illinois” (Mentors: Dr. Xiaoyong Chen and Dr. Mary Carrington)
- **Danuta Chlebek** (History BA): “Witold Pilecki: The Auschwitz Volunteer”.
- **Brieyanna Jones** (Gender and Sexuality Studies BA), together with Ashley Basham (Psychology BA): “The Accessibility of Social Support for Transgender Youth”.
- **Emily E. Metzger and Snehal Chavda:** “Surveying Prevalence of *Cryptosporidium* in Fecal Material of Rural and Suburban *Canis latrans* of Illinois” (Mentor: Dr. John Yunger).
- **Francisco Munoz and Lizbeth Aranda:** “Biomass and Spatial Distribution of Fine Roots in an Oak Forest” (Mentors: Dr. Xiaoyong Chen and Dr. Mary Carrington).
- **Reni Truhtcheva Owikoti, Diana Acosta, and Markeia Scruggs:** “Assessment of Soil Particle Size Distribution under Four Land Covers in Nachusa Grasslands of Northern Illinois” (Mentor: Dr. Xiaoyong Chen). ■



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[www.govst.edu/cas](http://www.govst.edu/cas)